

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:GBHELMAN:CB

APPROVED BY IO:SWLEWIS

S/S:SSTEINER

S:HCOLLUMS

P:DO'DONOHUE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 292529 TOSEC 310368

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: AO, PFOR, UNGA

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTE ON
ANGOLAN MEMBERSHIP (S/S NO.7624737)

REF: STATE 291564(TOSEC 310266);(SECTO 31037)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM IO-LEWIS

1. THE PROBLEM:

IN RESPONSE TO MY MEMORANDUM TO YOU ASKING FOR VOTING
INSTRUCTIONS ON ANGOLA'S ADMISSION TO THE UN, YOU
ASKED WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR A CONSENSUS
TO DEVELOP IN WHICH WE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE. THIS
MEMORANDUM DESCRIBES THE PRACTICAL PARLIAMENTARY
ALTERNATIVES. THE VOTE IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AT
NOON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1.

2. CURRENT SITUATION:

ANGOLA'S ADMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS WILL BE
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APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY AN OVERWHELMING

VOTE ON WEDNESDAY. CHINA, WE EXPECT, WILL NOT PARTICIPATE.

THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK OF ORGANIZING A CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF ADMISSION. HOWEVER, AT LAST REPORT, A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES PREFER A VOTE. USUN HAS STAYED ON THE SIDELINES AND HAS NOT SOUGHT TO JOIN IN ANY PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVERS.

3. OPTIONS:

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ONLY PRACTICAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO US:

A. IF A CONSENSUS DEVELOPS, WE COULD REMAIN SILENT AND ACQUIESCE IN IT.

B. ALTERNATIVELY, IN THE EVENT OF A CONSENSUS, WE COULD ACQUIESCE, SAY THAT WE DID NOT WISH TO UPSET THE CONSENSUS AND THEN GO ON TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION AS WE DID IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. (WERE WE TO PROMOTE A CONSENSUS SOLUTION, OR IF WE ALLOWED IT TO EVOLVE, WE WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO ACQUIESCE IN IT OR BE ACCUSED OF BAD FAITH BY THE AFRICANS IF WE SUBSEQUENTLY DISASSOCIATED OURSELVES FROM IT.

C. WE COULD VOTE YES, ABSTAIN, OR VOTE NO IN THE EVENT THERE IS A VOTE. EVERYONE EXPECTS US TO ABSTAIN. AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE AFRICANS AS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL. A NEGATIVE VOTE WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS BACKTRACKING ON THE GESTURE WE MADE TOWARD THE OAU IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

D. WE COULD ABSENT OURSELVES FROM THE ASSEMBLY OR, IN THE CASE OF A VOTE, WE COULD NON-PARTICIPATE. HOWEVER, TO MY RECOLLECTION, WE HAVE NEVER TAKEN EITHER STEP IN THE PAST AND SUCH A MANEUVER SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR A SITUATION IN WHICH MORE IS AT STAKE.

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4. RECOMMENDATION:

I BELIEVE OUR BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO ACQUIESCE PASSIVELY IN A CONSENSUS WITHOUT A STATEMENT OR, IN THE EVENT OF A VOTE, TO ABSTAIN WITHOUT A STATEMENT. OUR DOUBTS ON ANGOLA WERE PUT CLEARLY AND FOR THE RECORD IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. OF

COURSE, WE WOULD SPEAK IN RIGHT OF REPLY IF ATTACKED.

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

5. DRAFTED BY: IO/UNP:GBHELMAN; APPROVED BY IO:SWLEWIS.
CLEARED: S:HCOLLUMS P:DO'DONOHUE ROBINSON

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